

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Rules to which was referred House Bill No. 754 entitled  
3 “An act relating to restructuring and reorganizing General Assembly staff  
4 offices” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends  
5 that the bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and  
6 inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 \* \* \* Sergeant at Arms \* \* \*

8 Sec. 1. 2 V.S.A. chapter 3 is amended to read:

9 CHAPTER 3. SERGEANT AT ARMS

10 \* \* \*

11 § 62. LEGISLATIVE DUTIES

12 (a) The Sergeant at Arms shall:

13 (1) execute orders of either house, the Joint Legislative Management  
14 Committee, the Committee on Joint Rules, or the House or Senate Committee  
15 on Rules;

16 \* \* \*

17 (d) The Sergeant at Arms and employees of the Sergeant at Arms shall seek  
18 guidance from and operate in accordance with policies adopted by the Joint  
19 Legislative Management Committee.

20 § 63. **SALARY**

1 ~~(a) The salary for a newly elected Sergeant at Arms shall be set by the~~  
2 ~~Joint Rules Committee and annually thereafter, this compensation shall~~  
3 ~~be adjusted in accordance with any annual increase provided for~~  
4 ~~legislative employees, unless otherwise determined by the Joint Rules~~  
5 ~~Committee.~~

6 ~~(b)~~ [Repealed.]

7 § 64. EMPLOYMENT OF ASSISTANTS; CAPITOL POLICE; TRAINING;  
8 UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT

9 (a) The Sergeant at Arms may, ~~subject to the rules of the General~~  
10 ~~Assembly, employ such employees as may be needed to carry out the Sergeant~~  
11 ~~at Arms' duties. These may include assistants, custodians, doorkeepers,~~  
12 ~~guides, messengers, mail and room assignment clerks, security guards, and~~  
13 ~~pages, and other staff as needed to carry out the Sergeant at Arms' duties,~~  
14 ~~except that creation of requests for~~ new, permanent positions shall be subject  
15 ~~to the approval of the Joint Legislative Management Committee.~~  
16 Compensation for such employees shall be determined by the Joint Rules  
17 Committee, except that prior to the beginning of any legislative session,  
18 compensation for a person who fills the same temporary position that he or she  
19 filled during the preceding session and, in the case of a person newly employed  
20 to fill a temporary position, the rate of compensation shall be established  
21 initially by the Sergeant at Arms at a rate not to exceed the rate established for

1 ~~the person who held that position during the preceding legislative session.~~  
2 ~~Persons employed under this section shall be paid in the same manner as~~  
3 ~~members of the General Assembly. The Commissioner of Finance and~~  
4 ~~Management shall issue his or her warrant in payment of compensation~~  
5 ~~approved under this section.~~

6 (b) All individuals employed by the Sergeant at Arms shall be subject to  
7 the personnel policies adopted by the Joint Legislative Management  
8 Committee.

9 (c) The provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 13 (classification of State personnel)  
10 shall not apply to employees of the Sergeant at Arms unless this exception is  
11 partially or wholly waived by the Joint Rules Committee consistent with the  
12 rules of the General Assembly. Any waiver may subsequently be rescinded in  
13 whole or in part Joint Legislative Management Committee.

14 \* \* \*

15 **§ 68. BUDGET**

16 **The Sergeant at Arms shall propose a budget for the Office of Sergeant**  
17 **at Arms to the Joint Legislative Management Committee.**

18 \* \* \*

19 § 70. CAPITOL POLICE DEPARTMENT

20 \* \* \*



1       ~~(b) Members shall serve a term of two years or until their successors are~~  
2       ~~appointed. The term of a member shall end upon his or her ceasing to be a~~  
3       ~~member of the General Assembly.~~

4       ~~(c) Interim vacancies may be filled by appointment by the President of the~~  
5       ~~Senate or the Speaker of the House in the same manner as in subsection (a) of~~  
6       ~~this section.~~

7       ~~(d) The members shall be appointed from the political parties in the general~~  
8       ~~proportion to the membership of each party in each house.~~

9       ~~(e) Appointments shall be made biennially at the same time as standing~~  
10       ~~committees.~~

11       (a) The Joint Legislative Management Committee shall employ an  
12       individual to be the Director and Chief Counsel of the Office of Legislative  
13       Counsel. The Committee may conduct the hiring process itself or it may  
14       delegate this duty to a special hiring committee comprising an equal number of  
15       members from the House and Senate, not all of whom shall be from the same  
16       political party; however, the Joint Legislative Management Committee shall  
17       make the final hiring decision.

18       (b)(1) The Director and Chief Counsel shall employ legal, editorial, and  
19       other professional staff as needed to carry out the duties of the Office of  
20       Legislative Counsel, except that **the creation of requests for** new, permanent

1 positions shall be subject to the approval of the Joint Legislative Management  
2 Committee.

3 (2) All individuals employed by the Office of Legislative Counsel shall  
4 be subject to the personnel policies adopted by the Joint Legislative  
5 Management Committee.

6 (3) The provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 13 (classification of State  
7 personnel) shall not apply to employees of the Office of Legislative Counsel  
8 ~~unless this exception is partially or wholly waived by the Joint Legislative~~  
9 ~~Management Committee.~~

10 § 403. ORGANIZATION; EXPENSES FUNCTIONS; CONFIDENTIALITY

11 ~~(a) The Legislative Council shall meet immediately following the~~  
12 ~~appointment of its membership to elect a chair and a vice chair and to organize~~  
13 ~~and conduct its business. The members of the Council shall adopt rules for the~~  
14 ~~organization of the Council and the operation of its personnel. The Council~~  
15 ~~may meet as often as it deems necessary, and a majority of the members shall~~  
16 ~~constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Meetings may be called by~~  
17 ~~the Chair or by a majority of the members.~~

18 ~~(b) The Legislative Council shall employ such professional and secretarial~~  
19 ~~staff as are required to carry out its functions and fix their compensation. 3~~  
20 ~~V.S.A. chapter 13 shall not apply to employees of the Council unless this~~  
21 ~~exception is partially or wholly waived by the Council.~~

1       ~~(e) After July 1, 1972, all of the expenses of the Legislative Council shall be~~  
2       ~~charged to the legislative appropriation, and the Council shall prepare a~~  
3       ~~detailed Legislative Council budget generally in the format of departmental~~  
4       ~~budgets.~~

5       (a) The Office of Legislative Counsel shall provide legal services to the  
6       General Assembly and its staff, including:

7           (1) drafting bills, resolutions, amendments, and other legal documents;

8           (2) providing legal research and analysis in relation to current or  
9       anticipated legislative matters;

10          (3) providing policy analysis of current or anticipated legislative  
11       matters;

12          (4) maintaining a reference library;

13          (5) maintaining confidential documents and other confidential materials  
14       provided to or generated by the Office in the course of business; and

15          (6) providing contracting and other legal services to the Joint  
16       Legislative Management Committee and other legislative offices; and

17          (7) furnishing such other information and legal assistance with respect  
18       to legislative matters as may be required by a member, member-elect,  
19       committee or similar entity of the General Assembly, a chamber of the General  
20       Assembly, or the General Assembly as a whole, in the performance of its  
21       duties.

1       (b)(1) All requests for legal assistance, information, and advice from the  
2       Office of Legislative Counsel, all information received in connection with  
3       research or drafting, and all confidential materials provided to or generated by  
4       the Office shall remain confidential unless the party requesting or providing  
5       the information or material designates that it is not confidential.

6       (2) Documents and minutes of committee meetings, including written  
7       testimony submitted to a committee **but excluding documents received or**  
8       **reviewed by a committee in executive session?**]; bills and amendments that  
9       have been approved for printing or introduction; and material appearing in the  
10       journals or calendars of either house are official documents and shall not be  
11       confidential under this subsection.

12       ~~**(d) The Legislative Council shall have its offices in the State House.**~~

13       ~~(e) For attending a meeting of the Legislative Council when he or she is not~~  
14       ~~receiving compensation as a member of the General Assembly, a member of~~  
15       ~~the Legislative Council shall be entitled to the same per diem compensation~~  
16       ~~and reimbursement for necessary expenses as provided members of standing~~  
17       ~~committees under 2 V.S.A. § 406.~~

18       § 404. FUNCTIONS BUDGET

19       ~~(a) The Legislative Council shall direct, supervise, and coordinate the work~~  
20       ~~of its staff and secretaries.~~

21       ~~(b) The Legislative Council shall:~~

1           ~~(1) furnish research services in relation to legislative problems;~~  
2           ~~(2) furnish drafting services for bills, resolutions, and amendments;~~  
3           ~~(3) establish and maintain a reference library;~~  
4           ~~(4) furnish such other information and legal assistance respecting~~  
5           ~~legislative matters as may be required by a committee of either house, a joint~~  
6           ~~committee of the General Assembly, or a member elect of the General~~  
7           ~~Assembly;~~

8           ~~(5) appoint one or more persons to serve as staff for a standing~~  
9           ~~committee of either house or any group of standing committees of the House~~  
10          ~~and Senate;~~

11          ~~(6) except when the General Assembly is in session and upon the~~  
12          ~~request of any person, provide him or her, on a weekly basis, with a list of all~~  
13          ~~public hearings or meetings scheduled by a council, committee, subcommittee,~~  
14          ~~commission, or study committee of the General Assembly or any cancellations~~  
15          ~~of hearings or meetings thereof previously scheduled;~~

16          ~~(7) keep minutes of its meetings and shall maintain a file thereof.~~

17          ~~(e) All requests for legal assistance, information, and advice and all~~  
18          ~~information received in connection with research or drafting shall be~~  
19          ~~confidential unless the party requesting or giving the information designates in~~  
20          ~~the request that it is not confidential. Transcripts and minutes of committee~~  
21          ~~meetings, including written testimony submitted to the committee, bills or~~

1 ~~amendments that have been released or approved for printing or introduction,~~  
2 ~~and material appearing in the journals or calendars of either house are official~~  
3 ~~documents and shall not be confidential under this subsection.~~

4 The Director and Chief Counsel shall propose a budget for the Office of  
5 Legislative Counsel to the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

6 § 405. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

7 For the purposes of carrying out its duties, the ~~Legislative Council and its~~  
8 ~~staff~~ Office of Legislative Counsel shall have access to and the right to copy  
9 any public record of all executive, administrative, and judicial departments of  
10 the State, except income and franchise tax returns and other documents  
11 classified as confidential by law.

12 \* \* \*

13 Subchapter ~~5~~ 2. Statutory Revision

14 § 421. ~~LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL~~ OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL;

15 STATUTORY PUBLICATION AND REVISION DUTIES

16 (a) The ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of Legislative Counsel shall  
17 continuously maintain and update a formal topical revision of existing  
18 permanent statutory law to be known as the Vermont Statutes Annotated. The  
19 topical revision shall be arranged in a systematic and annotated form that is  
20 consolidated into the smallest practical number of volumes and indexes.

1 (b) The ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of Legislative Counsel, on behalf of the  
2 State of Vermont, shall hold the copyright to the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

3 § 422. CONTRACT FOR PREPARATION OF VERMONT STATUTES  
4 ANNOTATED

5 (a) The ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of Legislative Counsel shall contract  
6 with a competent legal publisher to revise and publish the Vermont Statutes  
7 Annotated.

8 (b) The contract for publishing the Vermont Statutes Annotated shall  
9 provide for the annual editing and publishing of cumulative pocket part  
10 supplements after each biennial and adjourned legislative session for the  
11 duration of the contract. The cumulative pocket part supplements shall include  
12 all ~~the~~ codified laws ~~that were~~ enacted during the concluded biennial or  
13 adjourned session of the General Assembly, and during any special session that  
14 has occurred since the last annual publication. Each edition of the cumulative  
15 pocket part supplements to the Vermont Statutes Annotated shall include all  
16 annotations of constructions of the Vermont Supreme Court ~~of the State of~~  
17 ~~Vermont~~ and all federal courts of the United States, available at the closing  
18 date of each edition of the pocket parts.

19 (c) The contracted publisher shall, as provided in the contract, ~~or as~~  
20 ~~statutorily directed by the General Assembly~~, publish replacement volumes of

1 existing titles, or separate volumes of new titles, of the Vermont Statutes  
2 Annotated.

3 § 423. ACCEPTANCE AS EVIDENCE OF LAW

4 (a) The ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of Legislative Counsel shall require the  
5 contracted publisher to deliver the cumulative pocket parts and separate  
6 supplements to the Vermont Statutes Annotated prior to the convening of the  
7 next session of the General Assembly, which shall include a certificate of  
8 authenticity that the ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of Legislative Counsel shall  
9 issue. The certificate shall entitle the statutes contained in the cumulative  
10 pocket parts and separate supplements to admission in all the courts of  
11 Vermont as prima facie evidence of the law, ~~and may be cited as “V.S.A.”.~~

12 (b) The ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of Legislative Counsel shall require the  
13 contracted publisher to deliver new and replacement volumes of the Vermont  
14 Statutes Annotated with a certificate of authenticity that the ~~Legislative~~  
15 ~~Council~~ Office of Legislative Counsel shall issue. The certificate shall entitle  
16 the statutes contained in the new and replacement volumes to admission in all  
17 the courts of Vermont as prima facie evidence of the law, ~~and may be cited as~~  
18 ~~“V.S.A.”.~~

19 (c) A certificate of authority issued by the Statutory Revision Commission  
20 pursuant to the authority of the former 1 V.S.A. § 4 shall continue to entitle a  
21 cumulative pocket part and separate supplement, or a new and replacement

1 volume, for which it was issued to admission in all the courts of Vermont as  
2 prima facie evidence of the law ~~and may be cited as “V.S.A.”.~~

3 (d) The Vermont Statutes Annotated may be cited as “V.S.A.”

4 § 424. ~~LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL~~ OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL;

5 REVISION AUTHORITY

6 In preparing an individual act for codification in the Vermont Statutes  
7 Annotated or publication in the Acts and Resolves, the ~~Legislative Council~~  
8 Office of Legislative Counsel may not alter the sense, meaning, or effect of  
9 any act of the General Assembly, but it may:

10 \* \* \*

11 § 425. STATUTORY DATABASES

12 (a) The ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of Legislative Counsel, in collaboration  
13 with the Office of **Legislative** Information Technology, shall maintain  
14 computerized databases of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, which shall be  
15 posted on the General Assembly’s website. The databases shall include the  
16 enactment history of a codified statutory section, but shall not maintain the  
17 revisor’s notes, the judicial annotations added by the publisher, or the Acts and  
18 Resolves. ~~The Legislative Council shall post these databases on the website~~  
19 of the Vermont General Assembly.

20 § 426. ANNUAL STATUTORY REVISION LEGISLATION

1           Annually, ~~by~~ on or before February 1, the ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of  
2           Legislative Counsel may prepare and submit to the General Assembly a bill  
3           that proposes recommendations of any additions, repeals, or amendments to  
4           the existing statutes.

5                           \* \* \* Joint Legislative Management Committee \* \* \*

6           Sec. 3. 2 V.S.A. chapter 14 is redesignated and amended to read:

7           CHAPTER 14 2. JOINT LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

8           § ~~454~~ 41. CREATION OF COMMITTEE: PURPOSE

9           (a) Creation. There is created the Joint Legislative Management  
10           Committee. The Committee shall provide general oversight and management  
11           across the offices of the General Assembly and shall coordinate the operations  
12           of the Office of Administrative Services in its delivery of **shared**  
13           administrative services to the legislative offices and the ~~Legislature~~ General  
14           Assembly.

15           (b) Membership. The Committee shall be composed of the following  
16           members:

17           (1) four members of the House, which shall include ~~representatives of~~  
18           ~~the Legislative Council Committee,~~ representation from the Joint Fiscal  
19           Committee, and the House Rules Committee, and shall consist of:

20                           (A) the Speaker of the House; and

1 (B) three members of the House appointed by the Speaker, not all  
2 from the same political party; and

3 (2) four members of the Senate, which shall include ~~representatives of~~  
4 ~~the Legislative Council Committee,~~ **representation from** the Joint Fiscal  
5 Committee, and the Senate Rules Committee, and shall consist of:

6 (A) the President Pro Tempore; and

7 (B) three members of the Senate appointed by the Committee on  
8 Committees, not all from the same political party.

9 (c) Appointments and terms.

10 (1) Appointments shall be made biennially at the same time as standing  
11 committees.

12 (2) Members shall serve a term of two years or until their successors are  
13 appointed. The term of a member shall end upon his or her ceasing to be a  
14 member of the General Assembly.

15 ~~(d)~~(3) Interim vacancies may be filled by appointment by the Committee  
16 on Committees or the Speaker of the House in the same manner as in  
17 subsection (b) of this section.

18 ~~(e) Initial appointments shall be made upon passage of this act, with initial~~  
19 ~~terms concluding at the time new appointments to the Committee are made in~~  
20 ~~January 2021.~~

1       ~~(f) Subsequent appointments shall be made biennially at the same time as~~  
2       ~~standing committees.~~

3       ~~(g)~~(d) Meetings. The Committee shall meet immediately following the  
4       appointment of its membership to elect a chair and a vice chair and to organize  
5       and conduct its business. The Committee may meet as often as it deems  
6       necessary and a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the  
7       transaction of business. Meetings may be called by the Chair or by a majority  
8       of the members.

9       ~~(h)~~(e) Compensation; reimbursement. For attending a meeting of  
10       Committee when he or she is not receiving compensation as a member of the  
11       General Assembly, a member of the Committee shall be entitled to the same  
12       per diem compensation and reimbursement for necessary expenses as provided  
13       members of standing committees under section ~~406~~ 23 of this title.

14       § 42. OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS

15       (a) ~~As part of its oversight and management of the offices of the~~  
16       ~~General Assembly, the~~ The Joint Legislative Management Committee shall:

17               (1) prepare a proposed budget for the Legislative Branch that includes a  
18       budget for each legislative office;

19               (2) approve ~~the creation of requests for~~ new, permanent positions in  
20       staff offices as appropriate, for inclusion in the proposed Legislative Branch  
21       budget;

1           (3) approve the reallocation of existing positions among staff offices, as  
2 appropriate; and

3           (4) approve and adopt policies that apply across the Legislative Branch,  
4 including compensation and benefits plans, personnel policies, and policies  
5 relating to information technology; and

6           (5) attend to other relevant management and oversight matters.

7           (b) The Joint Legislative Management Committee shall have access to  
8 legal, financial, administrative, information technology, and other services  
9 from legislative offices as needed to serve the needs of the Legislative Branch.

10       Sec. 4. JOINT LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE;

11                   CONCLUSION OF INITIAL TERMS

12           The terms of the members appointed to the Joint Legislative Management  
13 Committee in 2019 shall conclude in January 2021 at the time the new  
14 appointments to the Committee are made.

15                               \* \* \* Joint Fiscal Office \* \* \*

16       Sec. 5. 2 V.S.A. chapter 15 is amended to read:

17                   CHAPTER 15. JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE; JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

18                               Subchapter 1. Joint Fiscal Committee

19       § 501. CREATION OF COMMITTEE; PURPOSE

20           (a) There is created a Joint Fiscal Committee whose membership shall be  
21 appointed on or before January 15 of each biennial session of the General

1 Assembly. The Committee shall consist of five Representatives and five  
2 Senators as follows:

- 3 (1) ~~The~~ the Chair of the House Committee on Appropriations;
- 4 (2) ~~The~~ the Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means;
- 5 (3) ~~The~~ the Chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations;
- 6 (4) ~~The~~ the Chair of the Senate Committee on Finance;
- 7 (5) ~~Two~~ two members of the House, ~~one from each major~~ not both from  
8 the same political party, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 9 (6) ~~Two~~ two members of the Senate, ~~one from each major~~ not both from  
10 the same political party, appointed by the Committee on Committees; and
- 11 (7) ~~One~~ one member of the Senate to be appointed by the Committee on  
12 Committees and one member of the House to be appointed by the Speaker.

13 (b) The Joint Fiscal Committee shall meet immediately following the  
14 appointment of its membership to organize and conduct its business. The  
15 Committee shall elect a chair, vice chair, and clerk and shall adopt rules of  
16 procedure. The Committee may meet at any time at the call of the Chair or a  
17 majority of the members of the Committee. A majority of the membership  
18 shall constitute a quorum.

19 (c) For attendance at a meeting when the General Assembly is not in  
20 session, members of the Joint Fiscal Committee shall be entitled to the same

1 per diem compensation and reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses  
2 as provided members of standing committees under section ~~406~~ 23 of this title.

3 § 502. ~~EMPLOYEES; RULES; BUDGET~~

4 ~~(a) The Joint Fiscal Committee shall meet immediately following the~~  
5 ~~appointment of its membership to organize and conduct its business. The Joint~~  
6 ~~Fiscal Committee shall adopt rules for the operation of its personnel.~~

7 ~~(b) The Joint Fiscal Committee shall employ such professional and~~  
8 ~~secretarial staff as are required to carry out its functions and fix their~~  
9 ~~compensation~~

10 ~~(1) 3 V.S.A. chapter 13, shall not apply to employees of the Joint Fiscal~~  
11 ~~Committee unless this exception is partially or wholly waived by the Joint~~  
12 ~~Fiscal Committee.~~

13 ~~(2) All requests for assistance, information, and advice and all~~  
14 ~~information received in connection with fiscal research or related drafting shall~~  
15 ~~be confidential unless the party requesting or giving the information designates~~  
16 ~~in the request that it is not confidential. Documents, transcripts, and minutes~~  
17 ~~of committee meetings, including written testimony submitted to a committee,~~  
18 ~~fiscal notes and summaries which have been released or approved for printing~~  
19 ~~or introduction, and material appearing in the journals or calendars of either~~  
20 ~~house are official documents and shall not be confidential under this~~  
21 ~~subsection.~~

1       ~~(e) The Joint Fiscal Committee shall prepare a budget. [Repealed.]~~

2       § 503. FUNCTIONS

3       ~~(a) The Joint Fiscal Committee shall direct, supervise, and coordinate the~~  
4       ~~work of its staff and secretaries.~~

5       ~~(b) The Joint Fiscal Committee shall:~~

6               ~~(1) furnish research services and secretarial services of a fiscal nature to~~  
7       ~~the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the Senate Committee~~  
8       ~~on Finance, the House Committee on Ways and Means, the House and Senate~~  
9       ~~Committees on Transportation, and the Joint Fiscal Committee; hire the Chief~~  
10       ~~Fiscal Officer;~~

11               ~~(2) carry on a continuing review of the fiscal operations of the State,~~  
12       ~~including revenues, budgeting, and expenditures;~~

13               ~~(3) accept grants and approve any related limited service positions, gifts,~~  
14       ~~loans, or any other thing of value, approved by the Governor, under the~~  
15       ~~provisions of 32 V.S.A. § 5, **when the General Assembly is not in session;**~~

16               ~~**(4) establish prioritization for the work of the Joint Fiscal Office;**~~

17       and

18               ~~**(4)(5)** keep minutes of its meetings and maintain a file thereof.~~

19       § 504. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

20       ~~For the purposes of carrying out its duties, the Joint Fiscal Committee and~~  
21       ~~its staff shall have access to and the right to copy any public record of all~~

1 ~~executive, administrative, and judicial Departments of the State, except income~~  
2 ~~and franchise tax returns and other documents classified as confidential by law.~~

3 [Repealed.]

4 \* \* \*

5 Subchapter 2. Joint Fiscal Office

6 § 521. CREATION AND PURPOSE

7 The Joint Fiscal Office is created as a permanent agency to **serve those**  
8 **committees of provide** the General Assembly **that have a focus on with**  
9 **services relating to** the fiscal operations of the State, including revenues,  
10 budgeting, and expenditures.

11 § 522. CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER; EMPLOYEES

12 (a)(1) The Joint Fiscal Committee shall employ an individual to be the  
13 Chief Fiscal Officer of the Joint Fiscal Office.

14 (2) The Chief Fiscal Officer shall employ fiscal, research, and other  
15 professional staff as needed to carry out the duties of the Joint Fiscal Office,  
16 except that **the creation of request for** new, permanent positions shall be  
17 subject to the approval of the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

18 (b) All individuals employed by the Joint Fiscal Office shall be subject to  
19 the personnel policies adopted by the Joint Legislative Management  
20 Committee.

1        (c) The provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 13 (classification of State personnel)  
2        shall not apply to employees of the Joint Fiscal Office unless this exception is  
3        partially or wholly waived by the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

4        § 523. FUNCTIONS; CONFIDENTIALITY

5        (a) The Joint Fiscal Office shall furnish:

6            **(1)** nonpartisan research and administrative services of a fiscal nature to  
7        the Joint Fiscal Committee and, at the direction of the Joint Fiscal Committee,  
8        to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, the Senate Committee  
9        on Finance, the House Committee on Ways and Means, the House and Senate  
10       Committees on Transportation, the House Committee on Corrections and  
11       Institutions, and the Senate Committee on Institutions;

12            **(2)** nonpartisan research and administrative services of a fiscal  
13       nature to other legislative committees, to the extent practicable; and

14            **(3)** fiscal and budget assistance to the Joint Legislative Management  
15       Committee and to the other legislative offices.

16        (b)(1) [revise if LC language revised?] All requests for assistance,  
17        information, and advice from the Joint Fiscal Office, all information received  
18        in connection with fiscal research or related drafting, and all confidential  
19        materials provided to or generated by the Joint Fiscal Office shall remain  
20        confidential unless the party requesting or providing the information designates  
21        that it is not confidential.

1           (2) Documents and minutes of committee meetings, including written  
2           testimony submitted to a committee; fiscal notes and summaries that have been  
3           released or approved for printing or introduction; and material appearing in the  
4           journals or calendars of either house are official documents and shall not be  
5           confidential under this subsection.

6           § 524. BUDGET

7           The Chief Fiscal Officer shall propose a budget for the Joint Fiscal Office to  
8           the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

9           § 525. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

10          For the purposes of carrying out its duties, the Joint Fiscal Office shall have  
11          access to and the right to copy any public record of all executive,  
12          administrative, and judicial Departments of the State, except income and  
13          franchise tax returns and other documents classified as confidential by law  
14          unless permitted under 32 V.S.A. § 3102.

15                                   \* \* \* Office of Human Resources \* \* \*

16          Sec. 6. 2 V.S.A. chapter 14 is added to read: **(NEW)**

17                                   CHAPTER 14. OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

18                                   § 461. CREATION AND PURPOSE

19           The Office of Human Resources is created as a permanent agency to service  
20           the members and employees of the General Assembly with nonpartisan human  
21           resources services.

1     § 462. DIRECTOR; EMPLOYEES

2           (a) The Joint Legislative Management Committee shall employ an  
3     individual with experience and expertise in human resources management to  
4     be the Director of Human Resources. The Committee may conduct the hiring  
5     process itself or may delegate this duty to a special hiring committee  
6     comprising an equal number of members from the House and Senate, not all of  
7     whom shall be from the same political party; however, the Joint Legislative  
8     Management Committee shall make the final hiring decision.

9           (b)(1) The Director of Human Resources shall employ human resources  
10    and other professional staff (?) as needed to carry out the duties of the Office  
11    of Human Resources, ,except that requests for new, permanent positions shall  
12    be subject to the approval of the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

13           (2) All individuals employed by the Office of Human Resources shall be  
14    subject to the personnel policies adopted by the Joint Legislative Management  
15    Committee.

16           (3) The provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 13 (classification of State  
17    personnel) shall not apply to employees of the Office of Human Resources.

18     § 463. FUNCTIONS

19           The Office of Human Resources shall provide human resources services to  
20    members of the General Assembly and legislative employees, including:

1           (1) developing compensation and benefits plans and personnel policies  
2           for legislative offices and employees for Joint Legislative Management  
3           Committee approval and providing advice, guidance, and technical assistance  
4           in the administration of these plans and policies;

5           (2) providing training on **topics** such as the prevention of harassment  
6           and discrimination, **implicit bias**, **time management**, and other workplace  
7           issues;

8           (3) providing job recruitment services to other legislative offices;

9           (4) providing performance evaluation services to other legislative  
10          offices;

11          (5) providing advice and guidance to legislative employees, supervisors,  
12          and members of the General Assembly regarding labor and employment laws,  
13          policies, and practices;

14          (6) coordinating legislative internship opportunities, including  
15          registering legislative interns and developing and implementing internship  
16          policies and procedures; and

17          (7) **developing processes for**, investigating, and resolving employee  
18          disputes and other personnel matters.

19          § 464. BUDGET

20          The Director of Human Resources shall propose a budget for the Office of  
21          Human Resources to the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

1     § 465. INTERGOVERNMENT COOPERATION **(necessary/appropriate?)**

2         For the purposes of carrying out its duties, the Office of Human Resources  
3         shall have access to and the right to copy any public record of all executive,  
4         administrative, and judicial departments of the State, except income and  
5         franchise tax returns and other documents classified as confidential by law.

6     Sec. 7. 2 V.S.A. chapter 16 is added to read:

7             CHAPTER 16. OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

8     § 551. CREATION AND PURPOSE

9         The Office of Administrative Services is created as a permanent agency to  
10        serve the members and employees of the General Assembly with nonpartisan  
11        operational, financial, and other administrative services and to support the  
12        statutory responsibilities of the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

13    § 552. DIRECTOR; EMPLOYEES

14        (a) The Joint Legislative Management Committee shall employ an  
15        individual with experience and expertise in administration or management to  
16        be the Director of Administrative Services. The Committee may conduct the  
17        hiring process itself or it may delegate this duty to a special hiring committee  
18        comprising an equal number of members from the House and Senate, not all of  
19        whom shall be from the same political party; however, the Joint Legislative  
20        Management Committee shall make the final hiring decision.

1        (b)(1) The Director of Administrative Services shall employ administrative,  
2        management, finance, committee services, and other professional staff as  
3        needed to carry out the duties of the Office of Administrative Services, except  
4        that the creation of requests for new, permanent positions shall be subject to  
5        the approval of the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

6            (2) All individuals employed by the Office of Administrative Services  
7        shall be subject to the personnel policies adopted by the Joint Legislative  
8        Management Committee.

9            (3) The provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 13 (classification of State  
10        personnel) shall not apply to employees of the Office of Administrative  
11        Services unless this exception is partially or wholly waived by the Joint  
12        Legislative Management Committee.

13        § 553. FUNCTIONS

14        The Office of Administrative Services shall provide:

15            (1) administrative support to the Joint Legislative Management  
16        Committee;

17            (2) administrative support to other standing and interim legislative  
18        committees;

19            (3) payroll, billing, expense reimbursement, finance, and accounting  
20        services to members of the General Assembly, and, as needed, to other  
21        legislative offices, and legislative employees; and

1           (4) other administrative and operational services as needed to support  
2           members of the General Assembly, legislative offices, and legislative  
3           employees.

4           § 554. BUDGET

5           The Director of Administrative Services shall propose a budget for the  
6           Office of Administrative Services to the Joint Legislative Management  
7           Committee.

8           § 555. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

9           **(necessary/appropriate?)**

10           For the purposes of carrying out its duties, the Office of Administrative  
11           Services shall have access to and the right to copy any public record of all  
12           executive, administrative, and judicial departments of the State, except income  
13           and franchise tax returns and other documents classified as confidential by law.

14                   \* \* \* Office of Legislative Information Technology \* \* \*

15           Sec. 8. 2 V.S.A. chapter 21 is added to read:

16                   CHAPTER 21. OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

17                                   TECHNOLOGY

18           § 701. CREATION AND PURPOSE

19           The Office of Legislative Information Technology is created as a permanent  
20           agency to serve the members and employees of the General Assembly with  
21           information technology resources and nonpartisan technology-related services.

1     § 702. DIRECTOR; EMPLOYEES

2           (a) The Joint Legislative Management Committee shall employ an  
3           individual with experience and expertise in information technology to be the  
4           Director of Legislative Information Technology. The Committee may conduct  
5           the hiring process itself or it may delegate this duty to a special hiring  
6           committee comprising an equal number of members from the House and  
7           Senate, not all of whom shall be from the same political party; however, the  
8           Joint Legislative Management Committee shall make the final hiring decision.

9           (b)(1) The Director shall employ additional information technology staff as  
10          needed to carry out the duties of the Office of Legislative Information  
11          Technology, except that **the creation of requests for** new, permanent  
12          positions shall be subject to the approval of the Joint Legislative Management  
13          Committee.

14          (2) All individuals employed by the Office of Legislative Information  
15          Technology shall be subject to the personnel policies adopted by the Joint  
16          Legislative Management Committee.

17          (3) The provisions of 3 V.S.A. chapter 13 (classification of State  
18          personnel) shall not apply to employees of the Office of Legislative  
19          Information Technology unless this exception is partially or wholly waived by  
20          the Joint Legislative Management Committee.

21     § 703. FUNCTIONS

1        The Office of Legislative Information Technology shall:

2            (1) design, support, and maintain the General Assembly’s information  
3 systems;

4            (2) provide hardware, software, and customer support to members and  
5 employees of the General Assembly to enable them to fulfill their professional  
6 responsibilities; and

7            (3) ensure that legislative records created, received, stored, or transmitted  
8 using information technology are maintained in accordance with Vermont’s  
9 the General Assembly’s recordkeeping requirements.

10        **§ 704. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION**

11            **TECHNOLOGY**

12            **The Director of Legislative Information Technology shall prepare and**  
13 **maintain a long-range strategic plan for information technology**  
14 **operations and services in the Legislative Branch. In preparing the plan,**  
15 **the Director and other employees of the Office of Legislative Information**  
16 **Technology shall consult with members of the General Assembly,**  
17 **employees of other legislative staff offices, the State Archivist,**  
18 **representatives of the Executive and Judicial Branches, and members of**  
19 **the public. The strategic plan shall be subject to review and approval by**  
20 **the Joint Legislative Management Committee.**

21        **§ 705. BUDGET**





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Subchapter 2. Capitol Complex; Parking

\* \* \*

Sec. 11. REDESIGNATIONS

(a) 2 V.S.A. § 71 (parking) is redesignated as 29 V.S.A. § 191 in 29 V.S.A. chapter 6, subchapter 2.

(b) 2 V.S.A. § 406 (standing committees; authority to meet; out-of-state business) is redesignated as 2 V.S.A. § 23.

(c) 2 V.S.A. § 505 (basic needs budget and livable wage; report) is redesignated as 2 V.S.A. § 526.

(d) 2 V.S.A. § 754 (contracts for Internet service) is redesignated as 2 V.S.A. § 705.

\* \* \* Conforming Revisions \* \* \*

Sec. 12. CONFORMING REVISIONS

When preparing the cumulative supplements and replacement volumes of the Vermont Statutes Annotated for publication, the Office of Legislative Counsel shall make the following revisions to these supplements and volumes as needed for consistency with this act, as long as the revisions have no other effect on the meaning of the affected statutes:

(1) replace “Legislative Council” and “Office of Legislative Council” with “Legislative Counsel” and “Office of Legislative Counsel” as appropriate;

1           (2) replace references to 2 V.S.A. § 406 (standing committees; authority  
2           to meet; out-of-state business) with 2 V.S.A. § 23 to reflect the redesignation  
3           of 2 V.S.A. § 406 pursuant to Sec. 11(b) of this act; and

4           (3) replace references to 2 V.S.A. § 505 (basic needs budget and livable  
5           wage; report) with 2 V.S.A. § 526 to reflect the redesignation of 2 V.S.A.  
6           § 505 pursuant to Sec. 11(c) of this act.

7           Sec. 13. 2 V.S.A. § 21(c) is amended to read:

8           (c) Official documents, as defined in ~~subsection 404(e)~~ subdivision  
9           403(b)(2) of this title, shall be admissible under V.R.C.P. 44.

10          Sec. 14. 2 V.S.A. § 693(a) is amended to read:

11          (a) The Committee shall have the administrative, technical, and legal  
12          assistance of the ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of Legislative Counsel, the Office  
13          of Human Resources and Administration Services, and the Joint Fiscal Office.

14          Sec. 15. 2 V.S.A. § 801(f) is amended to read:

15          (f) The professional and clerical services of the Joint Fiscal Office, the  
16          Office of Administrative Services, and the Office of Legislative ~~Council~~  
17          Counsel shall be available to the Committee.

18          Sec. 16. 2 V.S.A. § 970(f) is amended to read:

19          (f) The staff services of the Joint Fiscal Office, the Office of Human  
20          Resources and Administration Services, and the Office of the Legislative  
21          ~~Council~~ Counsel shall be available to the Committee.

1 Sec. 17. 3 V.S.A. § 23(e) is amended to read:

2 (e) Staff services. The Commission shall be entitled to staff services of the  
3 Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the ~~Legislative Council~~  
4 Office of Legislative Counsel, the Office of Administrative Services, and the  
5 Joint Fiscal ~~Committee~~ Office.

6 Sec. 18. 3 V.S.A. § 268(d) is amended to read:

7 (d) Assistance. The Commission shall have the administrative, technical,  
8 and legal assistance of the Office of Legislative ~~Council~~ Counsel, the Office of  
9 Administrative Services, the Joint Fiscal Office, and the Agency of  
10 Administration.

11 Sec. 19. 3 V.S.A. § 311(a) is amended to read:

12 (a) The classified service to which this chapter shall apply shall include all  
13 positions and categories of employment by the State, except as otherwise  
14 provided by law, and except the following:

15 (1) The ~~State Legislature~~ General Assembly and its employees and other  
16 officers elected by popular vote or by vote of the ~~Legislature~~ General  
17 Assembly and persons appointed to fill vacancies in elective offices.

18 (2) Members of boards and commissions and heads of departments or  
19 agencies appointed by the Governor, or with his or her approval.

20 (3) One principal or executive assistant, one deputy to the head of a  
21 department or agency, one private secretary, and one executive director for

1 each board or commission or head of a department or agency elected or  
2 appointed by the Governor or ~~Legislature or Legislative Council~~ General  
3 Assembly. However, nothing ~~contained herein~~ in this subdivision shall be  
4 construed ~~so as~~ to prevent a board, commission, or director or head of a  
5 department or agency from designating a classified employee to perform the  
6 duties of a principal assistant, deputy, executive director, or private secretary.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. 20. 3 V.S.A. § 817(b) is amended to read:

9 (b) The Committee shall meet as necessary for the prompt discharge of its  
10 duties and may use the staff and services of the ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of  
11 Legislative Counsel and the Office of Administrative Services. The  
12 Committee shall adopt rules to govern its operation and organization. A  
13 quorum of the Committee shall consist of five members. For attendance at a  
14 meeting when the General Assembly is not in session, members of the  
15 Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules shall be entitled to the same  
16 per diem compensation and reimbursement for necessary expenses as provided  
17 members of standing committees under 2 V.S.A. § ~~406~~ 23.

18 Sec. 21. 4 V.S.A. § 4(d) is amended to read:

19 (d) The Court Administrator shall notify the Secretary of State whenever a  
20 Justice is appointed and takes the oath of office after September 1 of the year  
21 preceding the expiration of the term of office to which the Justice has

1 succeeded thereby resulting in automatic notification of an intention to  
2 continue in office. Whenever a Justice files a declaration under subsection (c)  
3 of this section, or notification occurs automatically, the Secretary of State shall  
4 notify the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Office of  
5 Legislative Counsel, and the ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of Administrative  
6 Services forthwith.

7 Sec. 22. 4 V.S.A. § 71(c) is amended to read:

8 (c) The Court Administrator shall notify the Secretary of State whenever a  
9 Superior judge is appointed and takes the oath of office after September 1 of  
10 the year preceding the expiration of the term of office to which the judge has  
11 succeeded, thereby resulting in automatic notification of an intention to  
12 continue in office. Whenever a Superior judge files a declaration under  
13 subsection (b) of this section or notification occurs automatically, the Secretary  
14 of State shall notify the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the  
15 Office of Legislative Counsel, and the ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of  
16 Administrative Services forthwith.

17 Sec. 23. 4 V.S.A. § 461(c)(3) is amended to read:

18 (3) The Court Administrator shall notify the Secretary of State whenever a  
19 magistrate is appointed and takes the oath of office after September 1 of the  
20 year preceding the expiration of the term of office to which the magistrate has  
21 succeeded, thereby resulting in automatic notification of an intention to

1 continue in office. Whenever a magistrate files a declaration under subsection  
2 (a) of this section or when notification occurs automatically, the Secretary of  
3 State shall notify the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the  
4 Office of Legislative Counsel, and the ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of  
5 Administrative Services forthwith.

6 Sec. 24. 4 V.S.A. § 601(f) is amended to read:

7 (f) The Board is authorized to use the staff and services of appropriate State  
8 agencies and departments as necessary to conduct investigations of applicants.

9 The Office of Legislative ~~Council~~ Counsel shall assist the Board for the  
10 purpose of rulemaking.

11 Sec. 25. 4 V.S.A. § 607(c) is amended to read:

12 (c) The Committee may use the staff and services of the ~~Legislative~~  
13 ~~Council~~ Office of Legislative Counsel and the Office of Administrative  
14 Services to, in addition to other duties, obtain information on the performance  
15 of a judge or Justice by soliciting comments from members of the Vermont Bar  
16 and the public.

17 Sec. 26. 12 V.S.A. § 3(b) is amended to read:

18 (b) The Committee shall meet as necessary for the prompt discharge of its  
19 duties and may use the staff and services of the ~~Legislative Council~~ Office of  
20 Legislative Counsel and the Office of Administrative Services. The  
21 Committee shall adopt rules to govern its operation and organization. A

1 quorum of the Committee shall consist of five members. For attendance at a  
2 meeting when the General Assembly is not in session, members of the  
3 Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules shall be entitled to the same per diem  
4 compensation and reimbursement for necessary expenses as provided members  
5 of standing committees under 2 V.S.A. § ~~406~~ 23.

6 Sec. 27. 16 V.S.A. § 2905(e) is amended to read:

7 (e) The legislative and higher education staff shall provide support to the  
8 Council as appropriate to accomplish its tasks. Primary administrative support  
9 shall be provided by the Office of ~~Legislative Council~~ Administrative Services.

10 Sec. 28. 19 V.S.A. § 12b(b) is amended to read:

11 (b) The Committee shall meet during adjournment for official duties.  
12 Meetings shall be convened by the Chair and when practicable shall be  
13 coordinated with the regular meetings of the Joint Fiscal Committee. Members  
14 shall be entitled to compensation and reimbursement pursuant to 2 V.S.A.  
15 § ~~406~~ 23. The Committee shall have the assistance of the staff of the Office of  
16 ~~Legislative Council~~ Counsel, the Office of Administrative Services, and the  
17 Joint Fiscal Office.

18 Sec. 29. 29 V.S.A. § 1160(c) is amended to read:

19 (c) Five copies of the permanent journals of the Senate and of the House of  
20 Representatives of each biennial and adjourned session shall be distributed to  
21 ~~the Legislative Council and to~~ the Secretary of State. One copy of the

1 permanent journals of the Senate and of the House of Representatives of each  
2 biennial and adjourned session shall be distributed to the Office of Legislative  
3 Counsel.

4 Sec. 30. 32 V.S.A. § 1052(b)(3) is amended to read:

5 (3) Absences. If a member is absent for reasons other than sickness or  
6 legislative business for one or more entire days while the ~~House~~ house in  
7 which the member sits is in session, the member shall notify the ~~Legislative~~  
8 ~~Council staff~~ Office of Administrative Services of that absence, and expenses  
9 received shall not include the amount ~~which~~ that the legislator specifies was  
10 not incurred during the period of that absence.

11 Sec. 31. 33 V.S.A. § 1901a(b) is amended to read:

12 (b) The Secretary of Human Services or his or her designee and the  
13 Commissioner of Finance and Management shall provide quarterly to the Joint  
14 Fiscal Committee ~~and the Legislative Council~~ such information and analysis as  
15 the Committee ~~and the Council~~ reasonably ~~determine~~ determines is necessary  
16 to assist the General Assembly in the preparation of the Medicaid budget.

17 \* \* \* Transitional Provision \* \* \*

18 Sec. 32. CONTINUATION OF EXISTING RULES

19 The Joint Legislative Management Committee shall continue to apply the  
20 rules **and policies** of the Joint Rules Committee, the Legislative Council  
21 Committee, the Joint Fiscal Committee, and the Legislative Information

1 Technology Committee that are in effect on the effective date of this act and  
2 that govern the operations of the respective legislative offices until the Joint  
3 Legislative Management Committee’s adoption of rules **and policies** to govern  
4 the operations of those offices in accordance with the provisions of this act.

5 \* \* \* Repeals \* \* \*

6 Sec. 33. REPEAL

7 2 V.S.A. chapter 22 (Legislative Information Technology Committee) is  
8 repealed.

9 \* \* \* Effective Date \* \* \*

10 Sec. 34. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

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Representative \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR THE COMMITTEE